

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina Office of the Governor

For Release: **IMMEDIATE**
Date: January 15, 2002

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EASLEY ANNOUNCES 450 JOBS AND \$160 MILLION INVESTMENT FOR DURHAM COUNTY

RALEIGH—Gov. Mike Easley today announced that AW North Carolina, Inc., manufacturer of high-quality transmission components for Toyota Motor Manufacturing Corporation, will expand its Durham facility, creating up to 450 new jobs and \$160 million in investment.

“North Carolina has always had an outstanding working relationship with Japan and this announcement is a shining example of how relationships are paying off,” said Easley. “I want to commend the work of North Carolina’s Tokyo office and welcome AW North Carolina as they continue to bring good jobs and good business for our citizens.”

AW North Carolina is a subsidiary of Japanese major automatic transmission manufacturer Aisin AW Co Ltd., headquartered in Japan. AW North Carolina, Inc. supplies Toyota Motor Manufacturing Corporation with automotive transmission components including torque converters, oil pumps, clutches and stamped parts for the Toyota Camry and is Japan’s number one auto transmission maker, supplying automatic and manual transmissions to virtually every car manufacturer in the world.

“AW North Carolina believes in Durham County and is committed to bringing growth and opportunity to the community,” said Will Collins, AW North Carolina manager, human resources. “We explored a number of other locations in North Carolina and came back to the Treyburn Corporate Park because of all Durham County has to offer.”

Located in Durham’s Treyburn Corporate Park since 1998, AW North Carolina is Aisin AW’s first manufacturing facility in the United States. They currently employ 260 and represent a \$100 million investment.

Richard T. “Stick” Williams, chairman of the Durham Chamber of Commerce, said, “AW North Carolina’s expansion will further diversify Durham County’s economy. Moreover, it continues the trend of international investment that *Site Selection Magazine* identified when it ranked Durham and the State of North Carolina #2 for international investments during the decade of the 90’s.”

Construction is expected to begin on the 430,000 square foot expansion in the spring of this year, with full operation expected in the spring of 2004.